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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10/027,915 | 12/21/2001 | William J. Boyle | ACS-57406 | 9956 |
| 24201 | 7590 | 08/08/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP | | | NGUYEN, VI X | |
| HOWARD HUGHES CENTER | | | | |
| 6060 CENTER DRIVE | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| TENTH FLOOR | | | 3731 | |
| LOS ANGELES, CA 90045 | | | DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005 | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 10/027,915 | BOYLE ET AL. |
| | Examiner Victor X. Nguyen | Art Unit 3731 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-61 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-40,51,54,55 and 58 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 41-50,52-53,56-57 and 59-61 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The request filed on 07/12/2005 for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 10/027,915 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 41-50,52-53,56-57 and 59-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Levinson et al (6,277,139).

Levinson et al disclose in figures 1 and 8a, an embolic filter device to capture embolic debris in a vessel having the limitations as recited in the above listed claims, including: a guide wire (12), an expandable filter assembly (10) mounted near the distal end of the guide wire, the filter assembly includes a self-expanding cage (20) having a circumferential member (6), and the circumferential member includes a plurality of bending regions (22, 24), where a proximal strut (21) attaches to the circumferential member, and where a distal strut (27) is coupled to the circumferential member, and a filter element (32) attached to the expandable cage (20), and where each connecting member is attached at a bending region (22) on the circumferential member.

Regarding claims 42-43 and 57, Levinson et al disclose the proximal strut has one end rotatably mounted to the guide wire (12); and where the struts (21, 27) are attached to the circumferential member at bending regions (22, 24).

Regarding claims 44, 46, 48-49 and 59, Levinson et al disclose the filter device further includes a plurality of struts (21, 23, 25) attached to bending regions (22, 24) located on the circumferential member.

Regarding claims 45,50,52-53 and 60-61, Levinson et al disclose the filter device further includes a plurality of distal struts (figs. 8a, elements 25, 27) attached to bending regions (22, 24) located on the circumferential member.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 06/13/2005 have been considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that figure 1 of Levinson does not disclose a distal strut coupled to a circumferential member. The examiner, respectfully, disagrees. It is noted that in figure 1 of Levinson , element 27 can be interpreted as a distal strut ,and element 27 is able to attach to a circumferential member (6). In response to applicant's argument that Levinson does not include a proximal and a distal circumferential member: It is noted that in figure 1 of Levinson element 6 can broadly be considered a proximal circumferential member that is bendable in order to maintain radial strength in the deployed position to hold filter element 32 in the body vessel for collecting particle. If one considers element 6 to be a proximal circumferential member, then a curved segment 28 is a distal circumferential member. Accordingly, the above noted reference is still considered to read on the claimed limitations of the claims noted.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor X. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4.30 P.M.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anh Tuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Victor X Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 3731

Vn VN
8/1/2005

Julian W. Woo

JULIAN W. WOO
PRIMARY EXAMINER